# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE DIVISION

| KOHLER CO.,                                      |          |
|--|----------|
| Plaintiff,                                       | Case No. |
| V.   |          |
| AS AMERICA, INC. d/b/a AMERICAN STANDARD BRANDS, |          |
| Defendant.                                       |          |

### **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Kohler Co., for its Complaint against Defendant, AS America, Inc. d/b/a American Standard Brands, hereby states as follows:

### PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

- 1. Kohler Co. is a Wisconsin corporation with its principal place of business at 444 Highland Drive, Kohler, Wisconsin 53044.
- 2. Upon information and belief, AS America, Inc. d/b/a American Standard Brands is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at 1 Centennial Avenue, Piscataway, New Jersey 08855, and has substantial contacts with this judicial district due to its advertising, distribution, and sale of its products throughout the United States, including in the State of Wisconsin. Personal jurisdiction exists over AS America, Inc. d/b/a American Standard Brands because it is engaged in substantial and not isolated activities in the State of Wisconsin, Wis. Stat. § 801.05(1)(d), and because it committed acts both inside and outside Wisconsin that caused Plaintiff Kohler Co. damage inside this state, Wis. Stat. § 801.05(3), (4). Solicitation or service activities are carried on in Wisconsin by or on behalf of AS America,

Inc. d/b/a American Standard Brands, and products, materials, or things processed, serviced, or manufactured by it were used or consumed within Wisconsin in the ordinary course of trade.

- Trademark Laws of the United States (15 U.S.C. §§ 1051, et seq.), jurisdiction being conferred in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a); (b) this action includes claims of unfair competition joined with a substantial and related claim arising under the Trademark Laws of the United States, jurisdiction being conferred in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1338(b); (c) this is a civil action between citizens of different states in which the value of the amount in controversy exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), exclusive of interest and costs, jurisdiction being conferred in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a); and (d) this action includes certain state law claims that are so related to claims within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy, supplemental jurisdiction being conferred in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
  - 4. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c).

### **FACTS**

### Kohler's ONE Trademark and Products

- 5. Founded in 1873, Kohler Co. ("Kohler") is a leading manufacturer of plumbing and bathroom products in the United States.
- 6. Since 2001, Kohler, through its Kallista division, has manufactured, advertised, and sold plumbing and bathroom products, including faucets, bath spouts, hand showers, shower heads, bidet faucets, valve trim, water control valves, towel bars, robe hooks, and toilet tissue holders, throughout the United States under the arbitrary and distinctive trademark ONE. Attached as Exhibit A are representative examples of Kohler's ONE products.

7. As a result of Kohler's continuous and successful promotion and sale of products under its ONE trademark, Kohler's ONE trademark has become recognized in the marketplace as signifying Kohler's products, and now represents an extraordinarily valuable goodwill owned by Kohler.

# Defendant and Its Unlawful Activities

- 8. AS America, Inc. d/b/a American Standard Brands ("American Standard") manufactures, advertises, and sells plumbing and bathroom products in the United States.
- 9. On January 25, 2006, American Standard filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office an intent-to-use application to register the trademark ONE for "faucets, bath and shower valves", Application Serial No. 78/799,221.
- 10. On January 29, 2007, Kohler timely objected to American Standard's application to register the trademark ONE by filing an opposition with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Opposition No. 91175700. As grounds for the opposition, Kohler asserted that American Standard's proposed use of the trademark ONE was likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception with Kohler's prior use of the identical trademark ONE for identical products.
- 11. On January 9, 2008, while a motion to compel was pending against it in that opposition proceeding, American Standard expressly abandoned its application to register the trademark ONE, without Kohler's consent.
- 12. On February 6, 2008, the United States Patent and Trademark Office's

  Trademark Trial and Appeal Board entered judgment in favor of Kohler and against American

  Standard in the opposition over American Standard's application to register the trademark ONE,

  Opposition No. 91175700.

- 13. Despite expressly abandoning its trademark application and having judgment entered against it, American Standard is now manufacturing, advertising, and selling plumbing and bathroom products in connection with the trademark ONE. Attached as Exhibit B are representative examples of American Standard's use of the trademark ONE.
- 14. American Standard continues use of ONE as a trademark in connection with the manufacture, advertising, and sale of plumbing and bathroom products with full knowledge of Kohler's prior use of the trademark ONE for identical products.
  - 15. American Standard's aforesaid activities are without Kohler's consent.
- 16. On February 6, 2009, Kohler sent American Standard a letter demanding that it cease use of the trademark ONE in connection with plumbing and bathroom products.
- 17. In a letter dated March 6, 2009, counsel for American Standard stated that American Standard would not cease using the trademark ONE.
- 18. As of the filing date of this Complaint, American Standard continues to manufacture, advertise, and sell plumbing and bathroom products in connection with the trademark ONE.

# COUNT I (UNFAIR COMPETITION AND FALSE DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN)

- 19. Kohler re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 18.
- As a result of its unauthorized use of the trademark ONE in connection with the manufacture, advertising, and sale of plumbing and bathroom products, American Standard is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception, in that consumers are likely to believe that American Standard or its products are sponsored by, or connected or affiliated with, Kohler or Kohler's ONE products. Thus, American Standard's acts constitute unfair competition and a

false designation of origin, in violation of the Trademark Laws of the United States, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a).

- 21. By reason of American Standard's acts, Kohler has suffered and will continue to suffer damage and injury to its business, reputation, and goodwill, and will sustain loss of revenues and profits.
- 22. American Standard's actions greatly and irreparably damage Kohler, and will continue to damage Kohler unless restrained by this Court; therefore, Kohler is without an adequate remedy at law.

# COUNT II (TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AND UNFAIR COMPETITION UNDER WISCONSIN COMMON LAW)

- 23. Kohler re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 22.
- As a result of its unauthorized use of the trademark ONE in connection with the manufacture, advertising, and sale of plumbing and bathroom products, American Standard is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception, in that consumers are likely to believe that American Standard or its products are sponsored by, or connected or affiliated with, Kohler or Kohler's ONE products. Thus, American Standard's acts constitute trademark infringement and unfair competition in violation of the common law of the State of Wisconsin.
- 25. By reason of American Standard's acts, Kohler has suffered and will continue to suffer damage and injury to its business, reputation, and goodwill, and will sustain loss of revenues and profits.
- 26. American Standard's acts greatly and irreparably damage Kohler, and will continue to damage Kohler unless restrained by this Court; therefore, Kohler is without an adequate remedy at law.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Kohler Co., prays that:

- 1. Defendant, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, representatives, successors and assigns, and any and all persons acting by, through or under the authority of Defendant, be permanently enjoined and restrained from:
  - (a) using the ONE trademark, or any colorable imitation of the ONE trademark, or any name or trademark that is confusingly similar to the ONE trademark;
  - (b) doing any act or engaging in any conduct that is likely to diminish the value and goodwill owned by Plaintiff in its ONE trademark; and
  - (c) doing any other act or thing likely to induce the belief that Defendant's business or products are in any way connected with Plaintiff's business or products, or are sponsored or approved by Plaintiff.
    - 2. Defendant be required:
  - (a) to account for and pay to Plaintiff all gains, profits, enrichments, and advantages wrongfully derived by Defendant through its trademark infringement, false designation of origin, and unfair competition, including prejudgment interest, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) and the laws of the State of Wisconsin;
  - (b) to pay to Plaintiff the actual damages suffered by Plaintiff through Defendant's trademark infringement, false designation of origin, and unfair competition, including prejudgment interest, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) and the laws of the State of Wisconsin;
  - (c) to pay to Plaintiff three times the damages suffered by Plaintiff by reason of intentional and unlawful acts of Defendant, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a);

- (d) to reimburse Plaintiff for its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with this action, as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1117; and
- (e) to file with this Court and serve on counsel for Plaintiff within thirty (30) days after entry of an injunction issued by this Court, a sworn written statement as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1116.
- 3. This Court award Plaintiff such further relief as deemed just and equitable.

### JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury for all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

WHYTE HIRSCHBOECK DUDEK S.C.

Dated: July 20, 2009

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Attorneys for Plaintiff, Kohler Co.

# EXHIBIT A

# KALLISTA.

### ONE

Sophisticated modern, the One collection by Kallista infuses minimalist design elements with the essence of warmth and generosity. Embracing the discipline of geometry simply and completely, the One collection blends precision with thoughtfully proportioned components.

### **BATHROOM PRODUCTS**



# KITCHEN PRODUCTS



Faucets (6)

# KALLISTA.

Basin Set, Low-Spout

Basin Set, Low-Spout, Lever Handles

Basin Set, Tall Spout,

Basin Set, Tall Spout,

Lever Handles

Cross Handles

Cross Handles

ONE

View Page-by-Page

View All

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

P24401-CR See Details

P24401-LV See Details

P24402-CR See Details

P24402-LV See Details

STARTING AT

\$791.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL #

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$791.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$791.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$791.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL # DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted Basin Set, 7-1/8" Spout, Cross Handles P24410-CR See Details

\$777.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL # DIMENSIONS

P24410-LV See Details

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted Basin

Set, 7-1/8" Spout, Lever Handles \$777.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL# D

P24411-CR See Details

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted Basin Set, 11-1/8" Spout,

Wall-Mounted Basin

Set, 11-1/8" Spout, Lever Handles

Deck-Mounted Bath

Set, Low-Spout, Cross

Set, 11-1/8" Spout Cross Handles \$838.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL # DIMENSIONS
P24411-LV See Details

P24404-CR See Details

STARTING AT

\$838.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

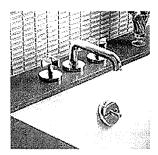
Handles

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$969.00\*



PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Deck-Mounted Bath Set, Low-Spout, Lever

Deck-Mounted Bath Set, Tall Spout, Cross

Deck-Mounted Bath

Set, Tall Spout, Lever

Deck Diverter, Cross

Deck Diverter, Lever

Set, Low-Spout, Handles P24404-LV See Details

\$969.00\*

T. SE

ONE

PRODUCT

Handles

MODEL#

P24405-CR See Details

P24405-LV See Details

P24420-CR See Details

P24420-LV See Details

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$969.00\*

KALLISTA

MO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

Handles

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$969.00\*

NG AT



ONE

PRODUCT

Handle

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$331.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Handle

MODEL #

**DIMENSIONS** 

STARTING AT

\$331.00\*

KALLISTA

MO PROTO AVAILABLE

**PRODUCT** 

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted Bath Set, P24425-CR See Details Cross Handles

\$872.00\*

KALLISTA.

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

Lever Handles

MODEL#

Wall-Mounted Bath Set, P24425-LV See Details

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$872.00\*

KALLISTA.

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

Spout

Wall-Mounted Bath

Bidet Set, Vertical Spray, Cross Handles MODEL#

P24414-00 See Details

**DIMENSIONS** 

STARTING AT

\$238.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$909.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Bidet Set, Vertical

Spray, Lever Handles

P24406-LV See Details

P24406-CR See Details

\$909.00\*

**PRODUCT** 

MODEL #

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted

Showerhead with Arm

P24471-00 See Details

\$355.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Raindome

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

P24473-00 See Details

\$1,182.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL #

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted

Showerarm

See Details P24474-00

P24476-00 See Details

\$366.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

Ceiling-Mounted

Showerarm

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$247.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall Supply Elbow

See Details P24452-00

\$98.00\*



PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Fixed Wall Bracket

P24453-00 See Details

\$98.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

Slidebar

MODEL# DI

P24456-00

DIMENSIONS

See Details

STARTING AT

\$443.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

Thermostatic Valve

Trim, Cross Handles

Thermostatic Valve

Trim, Cross Handle

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

P24421-CR See Details

\$744.00\*

KALLISTA.

MO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$744.00\*

KALLISTA

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL #

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Thermostatic Valve

Trim, Lever Handle

P24422-LV See Details

P24422-CR See Details

\$744.00\*

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Thermostatic Valve Trim, Lever Handles

P24421-LV See Details

\$744.00\*

KALLISTA.

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$274.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Volume Control Valve P2

Trim, Lever Handle

Three-way Transfer Valve Trim, Cross

Volume Control Valve Trim, Cross Handle

P24423-LV See Details

P24423-CR See Details

\$274.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Handle

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$343.00\*

KALLISTA

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Three-way Transfer Valve Trim, Lever

Handle

P24483-LV See Details

P24483-CR See Details

\$343.00\*

**PRODUCT** 

MODEL #

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Pressure Balance Valve Trim, Cross

Handles

P24415-CR See Details

\$610.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Pressure Balance

Valve Trim, Lever

Pressure Balance Valve Trim with Diverter, Cross Handle

Handles

P24415-LV See Details

\$610.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$668.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Pressure Balance

Valve Trim with

Diverter, Lever Handle

P24416-LV See Details

P24416-CR See Details

\$668.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

**DIMENSIONS** 

STARTING AT

Wand Handshower

P24443-00 See Details

\$265.00\*



PRODUCT Multi-Function MODEL# DIMENSIONS P24445-00 See Details

STARTING AT

Handshower

\$426.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Single-Function Handshower

MODEL#

P24446-00 See Details

P34401-00 See Details

P34402-00 See Details

P34403-00 See Details

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$426.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Towel Bar, 24"

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$318.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Towel Bar, 18"

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$286.00\*



ONE

PRODUCT

Double Towel Bar, 32"

MODEL #

**DIMENSIONS** 

STARTING AT

\$397.00\*

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Hook

P34406-00 See Details

\$93.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Hook

P34407-00 See Details

\$93.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Toilet Paper Holder

P34408-00 See Details

\$156.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

Handles

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

\$730.00\*

KALLISTA

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Deck-Mounted Bridge Kitchen Faucet, Lever

Deck-Mounted Bridge

Kitchen Faucet, Cross

Handles

P25202-LV See Details

P25202-CR See Details

\$730.00\*

NO TROTO AVAILABLE

KALLISTA

**PRODUCT** 

MODEL#

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Wall-Mounted Bridge

Kitchen Faucet, Cross

Wall-Mounted Bridge

Kitchen Faucet, Lever

Wall-Mounted Potfiller

Handles

P25203-CR See Details

\$860.00\*

KALLISTA

NO PROTO AVAILABLE

ONE

PRODUCT

Handles

MODEL#

# DIMENSIONS

P25203-LV See Details

STARTING AT

STARTING AT

\$860.00\*

KALLISTA.

Bubbasaya Otohn Ok

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL#

EL # DIMENSIONS

SIONS STARTING AT

P23080-00 See Details

\$948.00\*

ONE

PRODUCT

MODEL #

DIMENSIONS

STARTING AT

Deck-Mounted Potfiller

P23085-00 See Details

\$1,053.00\*



<sup>\*</sup> All prices are Manufacturer's Suggested List Prices in U.S. dollars. The price you pay at your local supply outlet may be different than the Manufacturer's Suggested List Price. These prices supersede previous prices and are subject to change without notice. These prices do not include shipping. Any sales tax applicable will be added to the prices.

View Page-by-Page

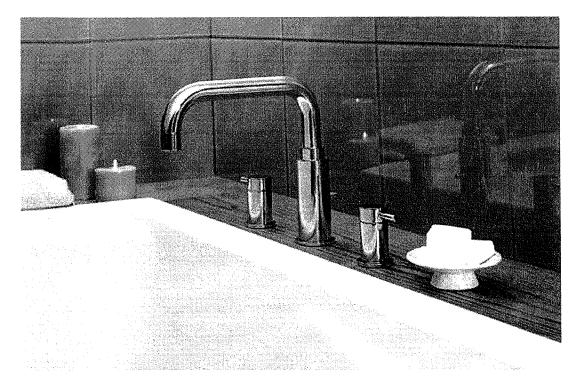
View All

# EXHIBIT B

# American Standard Style That Works Better

# The One Collection





The unique styling of the One collection is minimalist style for your modern bath. Without excess or ornamentation this collection's stoic lines and graceful function are the perfect fittings for a minimalist bathroom retreat. The One collection consists of bidet faucets, deck-mounted tub fillers, bathroom sink faucets, vessel faucets, bathroom accessories, and bath/shower faucets. All One collection bathroom sink and wall mounted faucets are WaterSense® certified.

Learn More about the SpeedConnect\*\* Drain View Water Saving Products Learn More about WaterSense(g)

# Explore the Collection:

There are **22** products in The One Collection.

## **Product Examples:**



Compact Cadet® 3 FloWise™ 1pc Toilet w/

\$542 - \$812\*

View All:

Toilets



One Widespread Bathroom Faucet

\$352 - \$527\*

View All:

**Bathroom Faucets** 



ONE<sup>™</sup> Towel Ring

\$65 - \$81\*

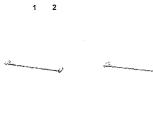
View All:

Bathroom Accessories

<sup>\*</sup> based on color and finish

### American Standard Style That Works Belter

#### **The One Collection**



ONE™ 18" Towel bar

\$85 - \$106 \*

ONE™ Towel Ring

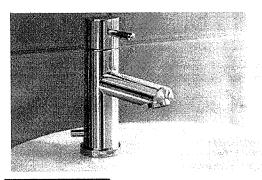
\$65 - \$81 \*

View All Products

ONE<sup>IM</sup> Toilet Paper

.

\$63 - \$79 \*



# REFINE YOUR SEARCH



Keyword

SEARCH



ONE™ 24" Towel Bar

\$89 - \$111 \*













\$37 - \$46 \*



One 1 Handle Walf Mount Lavatory Faucet

\$352 - \$527 \*

One Deck Mount Tub Filler



\$446 - \$835 \*

\$298 - \$487 \*

One Single Control Vessel Lavatory Faucet

One Bath / Shower Trim Kit with Built-In Diverter

\$298 - \$447 \*

\* based on color and finish

One 2 Handle Wall Mount Lavatory Faucet

\$352 - \$527 \*

1 2

View All Products

# The One Collection

The unique styling of the One collection is minimalist style for your modern bath. Without excess or ornamentation this collection's stoic lines and graceful function are the perfect fittings for a minimalist bathroom retreat. The One collection consists of bidet faucets, deck-mounted tub fillers, bathroom sink faucets, vessel faucets, bathroom accessories, and bath/shower faucets. All One collection bathroom sink and wall mounted faucets are WaterSense® certified.

Learn more about The One Collection

#### American Standard Style That Works Better

#### **The One Collection**

2



One Monoblock Bidet Fitting Faucet

\$278 - \$418 \*



One Single Control Lavatory Faucet

\$32 - \$406 \*



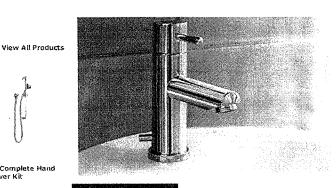
One Bath / Shower Trim Kit

\$170 - \$405 \*



One Complete Hand Shower Kit

\$244 - \$365 \*



### REFINE YOUR SEARCH

All Categories

One

Low price range

High price range

Keyword





ONE 2-Handle Thermostatic Valve Trim Kit

\$192 - \$288 \*



Valve Only Trim Kit with Built-in Diverter

\$190 - \$285 \*



ONE Central Thermostatic Valve Trim Kit

\$133 - \$198 \*



One Brass Tub Spout

\$80 - \$120 \*

#### The One Collection

The unique styling of the One collection is minimalist style for your modern bath. Without excess or ornamentation this collection's stoic lines and graceful function are the perfect fittings for a minimalist bathroom retreat. The One collection consists of bidet faucets. deck-mounted tub fillers, bathroom sink faucets, vessel faucets, bathroom accessories, and bath/shower faucets. All One collection bathroom sink and wall mounted faucets are WaterSense@ certified.

Learn more about The One Collection



ONE Diverter Valve Trim Kit

\$75 - \$113 \*



ONE On / Off Volume Control Valve Trim Kit

\$50 - \$75 \*

\* based on color and finish

1 2

View All Products